

# ***ALASKA MEDALS***

## **OF THE SOVIET UNION**

The Soviet Union issued medals to commemorate Russian exploration and discovery in Alaska. The medals are more than commemoratives. They are works of art. While many modern medals that we see are attractive, they could easily pass for coins with their low relief and photograph-like designs. The medals of the Soviet Union are bold, with high relief and very little in the way of inscriptions. In this issue, we will feature three medals of interest to Alaska collectors.



It is only fitting that the first medal that we examine is the medal issued in 1967 to honor Vitus Bering. In 1728, Bering determined that Asia and North America were not connected. His expedition in 1741 is credited with the discovery of Alaska. On his return to Russia, he perished on the island in the north Pacific that bears his name.

The medal bears a portrait of Bering on the obverse, and a map of the coastlines of northeast Asia and Alaska on the reverse. The bronze medal is 60mm in diameter, and was sculpted by A.A. Leonova.

Bering's expedition is again honored in 1991 on its 250th anniversary. The 65mm bronze medal (shown on page 53) was designed three sculptors and struck at the Leningrad Mint. The obverse has the ships St. Peter and St. Pavel and the legend "Sailing ships St. Peter & St. Pavel to the shore of America, 1741-1991, Committee 'Russian America.'" The reverse has a map of the ship's route, with the legend "Ship St. Peter - Vitus Bering, 16, July 1741. Ship St. Pavel - Aleksey Chirikov, 15 July, 1741." noting the dates that each sighted the Alaska coast.

continued on page 53

# EDITORIAL

This month I had to struggle with the front page. I have a lot of items that are not Alaskan, but I am not ready to use them yet. So, after thinking about it for a while, I remembered the Soviet polar and Alaska related medals I had been gleaming from eBay. Attractive and interesting, I hope that you enjoy them.

A previously listed but not illustrated token and a new discovery highlight our "For the Record" this month. And a very neat maverick makes an appearance.

Jim Robb of Whitehorse is back with "Yukon Paper Potpourri". Jim is an old pack rat from way back. One never knows what he will come up with. Watch for more of this in future issues.

The Alaskana items from our November 15 auction are included in this issue. Only one really good piece, the rest great items to start a collection. The Alaska Riverboat Receipts (lot 249) are pretty neat!

Unless I get ambitious, or some one sends in an article, I will probably use December to clean out the files. Lots of miscellaneous information, but nothing I can build into a lead article.

Hey, how about some one researching S. Ide of Cordova? Now that would make a great article.

-----  
**Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist**, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coins. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.  
 -----

Editor - Dick Hanscom  
 Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth  
 Anchorage Correspondent - vacant  
 Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick  
 Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb  
 Scandinavian Correspondent - Jorgen Somod

Subscription Rates: (all first class or airmail)  
     United States -                      \$15 per year  
     Canada -                                \$18 per year  
     Elsewhere -                            \$35 per year

Collector's Advertising Rates:  
     1 page - \$15    1/2 page - \$8    1/4 page - \$5  
     1/8 page (business card size) - \$15 for 5 issues  
 Classified ads: 20 cents per line.  
 Commercial advertisers: write for rates

# PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , The Club, B-12a	12.50
<b>Anchorage</b> , Mason. Penny, B-28 c-e?OB150.00NB	
<b>Cordova</b> , S. Ide, 12½¢ I/T, unlisted	585.00
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Univ. Coach, B-T8b	20.07
<b>Hawk Inlet</b> , PE Harris, B-1c RL OB225.00NB	
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Lucky Spot B-32a	76.07
<b>Kodiak</b> , NOB, B-10b	7.50
<b>Nome</b> , Mulloy, B-33a	43.04
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, B-8cIII(?)	34.06
<b>Snug Harbor</b> , Pioneer, B-2a	45.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , Buffet, B-4b	23.50

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist  
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve

## ALASKA INTERNATIONAL SENIOR GAMES

[www.internationalgames.net/news/0903/007.htm](http://www.internationalgames.net/news/0903/007.htm)

The Alaska International Senior Games were held in Fairbanks this past September. There were approximately 150 participants age 50 and over, a trial run for future games. Founder Jim Madonna pronounced this initial event a success.

The competitions were divided into three categories: sports, leisure games and novelty games to attract seniors with all levels of abilities. Leisure games included chess, darts, bridge, checkers, cribbage, dominoes, pinocle and Scrabble. Novelty games included basketball toss, frisbee throw, nail hammering, bean-bag toss, miniature golf, softball throw, 100-yard walk, 440-yard walk, blanket toss and high kick. Sports events included archery, bowling, fly casting, racquetball, road running races, softball, swimming and track and field.

The oldest female participant was 96, while Harrie Hughes, at 104 was the oldest male.

A "Participant" medal is shown to the right. Other award medals were also used.





# ALASKA MEDALS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Finally, the last medal that we will present honors Vasily Golovin. He was a vice-admiral, and made two voyages to Alaska. In 1807 he was commissioned by the government of Alexander I to chart the coasts of Alaska, the Kuril Islands and Kamchatka. On his second trip, he circumnavigated the globe, and again visited Kamchatka and the Aleutian Islands.



The 60mm bronze medal features a portrait of Golovin on the obverse and the dates 1776-1876. The reverse has a view of a sailing ship from the stern with sails furled. The medal was designed by A. Philippova, and struck at the Leningrad Mint in 1977.

Russian medals are making frequent appearances on eBay. These are three that we noticed with connections to Alaska. There have been other polar exploration medals, and we will bring them to you at another time.

A recent appearance on eBay: "This token is unlisted as far as I know- but I have been told by a number of knowledgeable collectors that it is a very rare early Alaska token."



We ran this in 1988 on page 45. It is brass, 24mm. In the 15 years since its first appearance in our newsletter, we have not learned anything. Can anyone shed any light on it now??? Perhaps one of those "knowledgeable collectors" mentioned in the description??? Hmm. Unlikely. We will report the price realized in the next issue.

This has to be one of the neatest, possibly Alaska mavericks out there!



# JIM ROBB'S YUKON PAPER POTPOURRI



Jim Robb is a long-time contributor to this newsletter. In the past, we have set his submissions aside until we had room for them. They usually are over-sized items like those on this page. We like to run them at actual size. It has taken 25 years to realize that this was not practical. This resulted in many items sitting in our files for years (yup, years). We will use his items in a more timely manner now, but at a reduced size.

These are the most recent items that he sent in, and we will run those that have been here a while in up-coming months.

**WHITEHORSE:** Tags Food and Gas, 2¢ off/litre with fill up. Red and blue on white paper. Actual size 155mm by 69mm.

**WATSON LAKE, YT:** Watson Lake Campground, 2¢ off/litre with fill up. Red and blue on white paper. Actual size 155mm by 69mm.

**SOUVENIRS**

**Trading Post**

**Skyscraper Trading Post**

210 Lambert Street  
 Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada  
 867-633-2118  
[www.logskyscraper.com](http://www.logskyscraper.com)

**We Carry**


*Local Handicrafts*  
**Gold Nuggets**  
*Silver and Gold Jewellery*  
 Northern Books  
 Fur  
**Bullshit Grinders**  
 Postcards • Pins  
**Dance Hall regalia**  
 Canvas Carry-alls  
**EXPLODING OUTHOUSES**  
*(a.k.a. dunnys, biffys, the bogs, etc.)*  
 Tiaras  
 Art Cards  
**Old-Fashioned Stick Candy**  
*and other neat stuff*  
 See over for directions

Tear Off

Gus Karpes  
 Irene Pugh

Tel: (867) 633-2118  
 Fax: (867) 633-3307  
[gkarpes@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:gkarpes@yknet.yk.ca)

  
**SKYSCRAPER TRADING POST**  
 #6 - 210 Lambert Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4S3  
[www.logskyscraper.com](http://www.logskyscraper.com)



The *Skyscraper Trading Post* is named for the historic four-story log building located in the heart of downtown Whitehorse. The *Trading Post* itself is located on the bottom floor of the two story log structure that sits directly in front of the skyscraper. Both buildings were built by Martin Berrigan in the early 1940's.

In January 2000, by order of Council, the buildings were officially designated as a Municipal Historic Site. The *Trading Post* offers you anything from full-size lynx fur to a genuine Klondike Gold Nugget or a rhinestone tiara. It is operated by the husband and wife team of Gus Karpes and Irene Pugh - commonly known as Karpes & Pugh. Both are Yukon pioneers and have lived in the Territory for most of their lives.

**How to find us**

We are located at *3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue* and *Lambert Street* in downtown Whitehorse. Lambert Street is just *two short blocks south of Main Street*. Just behind the *Dairy Queen*. Kitty corner from the main *Tourist Information Centre*.

**Welcome to Whitehorse. Come and See Us !**

Willow Printers Ltd.

Tear Off

**SKYSCRAPER BUCK**  
 Worth \$1.00 in trade at the  
*Skyscraper Trading Post*  
 Limit one per customer

**WHITEHORSE:** Skyscraper Trading Post, Skyscraper Buck, \$1.00 in trade. Brown on tan card stock. Actual size 102mm by 231mm. Artwork by Jim Robb.

Built by Martin Berrigan in the early 1940s, both buildings were declared a Municipal Historic Site by the Whitehorse City Council.

I only remember two things about Whitehorse from when my wife and I came to Alaska in 1974: the Dairy Queen (because they had a bacon flavored burger) and the log skyscraper.

Visit their website at [www.logskyscraper.com](http://www.logskyscraper.com) and order your exploding outhouse, or chinaware featuring Jim Robb's artwork.



# FOR THE RECORD



**AKIAK:** Carl I. Carlsen, \$1.00 in trade, B-1b. Previously not illustrated (submitted by Alan Weinberg).



**CORDOVA:** S. Ide, 12½¢ in trade. Aluminum, 25mm. eBay, price realized \$585, seller in Belgium!



**HOMER:** American Legion, Post #16, Good for one drink. Blue on white plastic, about 38mm (Kurtis Hawk).



**HOMER:** Connelly House, One Well Drink. Metallic green on black plastic, about 38mm. (Kurtis Hawk).

**HOMER:** Downeast Saloon, Good for one beer. Black on green plastic, about 38mm (Kurtis Hawk). At the top of the next column.



**HOMER:** Hobo Jim's Alaskan Bar, good for a Silver Bullet of \$2.50 in trade. Alum. 32mm.



**HOMER:** Kharacters Alaskan Bar, Good for \$3.75 in trade. White on red plastic, about 38mm. Was Hobo Jim's, then Jack's Other Place. Cool moose carrying a barrel in his antlers! (Kurtis Hawk).



**HOMER/KENAI:** Pioneers of Alaska, 87th Convention, 2003. One ounce pure silver, struck by Evergreen Mint, Anchorage.

**SEWARD:** 63rd running Mount Marathon Race, 1990. Bronze, with loop, about 39mm. Similar to previously reported dates of this medal.

# ALASKA RARE COINS

**P.O. BOX 72832 - 551B SECOND AVE.  
99707 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 452-6461**

**e-mail: akcoins@mosquitonet.com**

**AUCTION:** TO BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 15TH IN FAIRBANKS. These are just the Alaskan items. If you want a complete listing, please call or write to the address above. Phone bids may be called in between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday to Saturday (noon on the day of the auction). Bids will also be accepted at the e-mail address above.

## ALASKANA

## ESTIMATE

240	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Bethel</b> , Olsen Bros., Willard & Harlof, B-3 a-c, 25 and 50 Cents and \$1 in trade, AU or better. An attractive example of a relatively common set. Three tokens.	18.00
241	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Excursion Inlet</b> , A.&P.S.C.Co., B-1a-d; 5, 10, 25 and 50 Cents in trade, AU or better. This is one of the neater, affordable sets of Alaska tokens in that there is not a round token included! The tokens are square, scalloped, 4-lobed and octagonal, respectively. Four tokens.	40.00
242	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Haines</b> , The Brie Co., 12½¢ in trade, B-2a, AU with light corrosion. Quite scarce.	300.00
243	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Ketchikan</b> , Blue Fox Pup, B-6, a,c,d,e; 5, 25 and 50 Cents and \$1 in trade, AG, corroded Fine, EF and EF respectively. Seems as though the 5 Cents token is always well worn. Lacking the scarce 10 Cents. A total of four tokens.	50.00
244	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Ketchikan</b> , "P" Pioneer, B-41 a-c; 10, 25 and 100 Points, all Fine with a bit of corrosion. It is our understanding that these were used for gambling! A total of three tokens.	30.00
245	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Palmer</b> , Masonic Penny, B-3a, AU with luster. Also included are the following tokens and medals from Palmer: (2) Chace Lounge, good for one drink, 1983 and 1985; Moose Lodge, good for one drink, 1978; Matanuska Valley trade dollar, 1963; Palmer Dollar, 1979; One ounce silver medal "Matanuska Valley, Heartland of Alaska." A total of seven pieces.	150.00+
246	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Skagway</b> , Perry Hern, B-12a, three varieties, all 12½¢ in trade, VG to AU. Hern was in business in Skagway from 1917 to 1946. Simply based on wear, we would guess that variety II is the oldest. Perhaps a census is in order among Alaska token collectors! Three tokens.	15.00
247	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Talkeetna</b> , The Fairview, B-2a, 12½¢ in merchandise, Fine with light corrosion. The Fairview is still in business (as the Fairview Inn), and using wooden drink tokens!	40.00
248	<b>ALASKA TOKEN: Teller</b> , Teller Commercial Co., B-3 ai, b-d; 5, 25 and 50 Cents and \$1 in trade, all AU except for the \$1 which is VG. The 5 Cents token is the common variety.	30.00
249	<b>Alaska River Boat Receipts</b> . Two receipts for river boats operated by the Alaska Yukon Transportation Company. The first is for the "Oil City" dated Aug. 19, 1907, for \$369 for 61½ cords of wood to the AT Wood Camp. The second is for the "Wilbur Crimmin" dated June 22, 1907 for 9½ cords of wood to A.R. Nollner. Nollner later had a general store in Galena. Two pieces.	25.00+
250	<b>Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition 1909</b> Official Medal struck in bronze, XF. Attractive medal with the logo of the Expo on the obverse featuring three women and a portrait of William H. Seward. The reverse has the seal of the city of Seattle.	25.00
251	<b>Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition 1909</b> Watch Fob in bronze or brass featuring the logo of the expo. VF or better, 38mm. Quite scarce.	25.00
252	<b>Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition 1909</b> . Another watch fob, this one with the logo of the exposition enameled in red, blue, white, green and gold. Very attractive and scarce.	25.00
253	<b>Alaska &amp; Hawaii Statehood Medals</b> , 1959. These large, 2½ inch diameter medals were authorized by the state legislatures. The Alaska medal is sterling with an Alaska map superimposed over a map of the U.S. The Hawaii medal shows a map of the Islands, and is struck in bronze. Both have state seals on the reverse. Housed in a custom Capital Plastics holder. Both were struck by Medallion Arts. Two medals.	250.00
254	<b>Alaska Statehood Medal</b> , 1959, struck in bronze. The same as the Alaska medal in the preceding lot, but struck in bronze, and encapsulated in a Lucite holder which stands upright.	25.00

255	<b>Alaska Medals.</b> Anchorage American Revolution Bicentennial Medals. A map of Alaska inside a "76." The reverse is an eagle flying over stylized mountains. Silver and bronze, limited to 500 sets of which this is 366.	25.00
256	<b>"Carl Parker" 1 oz. Gold Medal,</b> 1976. This medal was made for Carl Parker (a local miner) in the 1970s by Parker Industries (no relation) under the name of Northwest Territorial Mint in Washington state. The obverse shows Money Knob hill near Livengood (some debate on this), the reverse is similar to a Morgan Dollar. Bezel set in what appears to be a handmade gold bezel with a large loop. A neat historical piece, the coin being one ounce of pure gold.	450.00
257	<b>Alaska Medals.</b> A set of three medals celebrating the 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood, issued by Westours, and featuring the cruise ships MS Noordam, MS Nieuw Amsterdam and SS Rotterdam. Three one ounce silver medals with a map of Alaska on the reverse.	60.00+
258	<b>Official Alaska State Medals.</b> A complete run from 1989 to 1997, inclusive. These are the so-called 1 oz. silver "Proof-like" medals which ironically had lower mintages than the proofs after 1991. This includes the "key" to the complete state set, the Eagle from 1992. The Alaska Mint started minting about half way through the year in 1992 after taking over the contract from the defunct Alaska Precious Metals. Consequently, mintages were low. Some of the medals are toned, others brilliant. 9 pieces.	400.00+
259	<b>Alaska Mint "Gold Panner" Medals.</b> Years offered are 1991, 1992 (undated), 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1997. The 1991 and 1995 are proofs, the balance are proof-like. All have a small nugget in the gold pan, except 1994. In 1996, this series became the "Gold Rush Centennial" medal, with a centennial every year since then. Beginning in 2003, they reverted to the gold panner theme, while continuing to make a "centennial" medal. Interesting, and difficult to assemble. A total of six medals.	150.00
260	<b>Alaska Medals.</b> Anchorage bid on the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. This silver and brass medal set promoted Anchorage as "America's Choice." The obverse features a speed skater, the reverse is a stylized snow flake and aurora. Struck prior to 1994, the medals are edgemarked "Michael's Jewelers", predecessor to the Anchorage Mint, and now the Alaska Mint.	20.00
261	<b>Alaska Medal,</b> Congressman Don Young Standing Up for Alaska, 25 years of Service, 1998, one ounce silver medal. Struck by the Alaska Mint. The obverse features Don's smiling face!	25.00
270	<b>Gent's Gold Nugget Watch Band.</b> An old style band by Ken Warburton (spelling?) With thick 10Kt. backs using a chunky overlay with jade Alaska Flag inserts. There is also a nuggeted clasp with jade insert separated from the two ends by a small Speidel expansion. The watch is a Timex (big deal) not currently running; This shows little actual use and is quite nice. New, about \$1,500 retail.	600.00-900.00
271	<b>Gent's Bolo Tie.</b> Ivory tips with a U.S. \$1 Type III Gold coin in a nuggeted gold bezel setting. The string shows some wear, otherwise very nice. New, this would retail for \$525.	300.00+
272	<b>Gold Chain.</b> A fine, 16" flat link chain in 14Kt worth about \$65 retail. Also included is a tri-color woven flat link chain in sterling that looks like Black Hills gold, approximately 8mm wide and 20" long. A neat chain with the appearance of gold. The 14Kt chain is new while the sterling chain is used. Two pieces.	50.00
273	<b>Large Gold Nugget Ring.</b> 14Kt shank with a large gold nugget on top. The total weight is slightly over ½ troy ounce. The shank is quite beefy and the ring was well made. It was worn (size 8) and the nugget is nice and smooth. New, this would have sold for about \$750. Our estimate...	450.00

## OBITUARY

Jack Griffin, long time cocktail lounge owner in Anchorage and Homer passed away on July 18, 2003.

Mr. Griffin was owner or partner in many bars that issued tokens since the 1960s. In Anchorage, he was associated with the Hunter Supper Club, **Union Club**, **Alley Cat**, **Richmond**, **Crossroads** and the Holiday Lounge. In Homer, he owned the **Waterfront**, **Bayside**, **Yah Sure**, **Down East Saloon** and Jack's Other Place. (bold entries with known tokens, but unknown if they were under Mr. Griffin's ownership).

In recent years, he sold all his businesses and retired so he could spend time enjoying his home in Palm Desert, California.

Several tokens associated with Mr. Griffin can be found in this month's "For the Record."

## FALKLAND ISLANDS TO ISSUE £2 COIN

The Falkland Islands plan to issue a £2 UK size bi-metal coin dated 2003 with the new portrait of the Queen and a down sized version of the reverse design of the commemorative millennium crown size coin - Penguin News.

